Career Connection Cadre Minutes

Jan. 12, 2011

Chairman Brad Giles called the meeting to order at 8 a.m. at the Center for Business Excellence.

Attending: Brad Giles, Dean O’Brien, Teresa Rogers, Adam Bunke, Chris LaBlanc, Larry Volenec, Michelle Snider, Kevin Snyder, Paul Mitchell, Bo Brewer, Tom Besaw, Liz Taylor, Meredi Jiloty, Kris Sternberg, Jayne Fifer, Debbie Connors, Rick Fraser, Judge Shawn Briese, Mary Bruno, Suzy Kridner, Ray Mara, Jack Selter, Kathy Wise, Joni Hunt, Christine Sikora, Mandy Moore, Jacqlyn Langbein, and also Ronda Alexander and Rick Delano from Ford Motor Co.

Brad said the goals for the Cadre’s long-term strategic plan were recently presented to the Volusia County School Board and received favorable response. Liz Taylor said school board members were impressed with the plan that brought together education, business and community representatives.

Reports were given from the five subcommittees:

1. Sustaining Change through Business and Civic Leadership Subcommittee: Teresa Rogers, chairman, reported that scheduling speaking engagements about the Cadre and various Academies is one of their biggest goals. So far, six talks have been set up.

Meredi Jiloty, district director of Junior Achievement, said her group and the Subcommittee have been working to prevent overlapping.

Articles about the Law Academy have been written by Judge Shawn L. Briese, student Rhuey Cruz, and teacher Delia Boehm and submitted to Clayton Park at The News-Journal. Rick Fraser said articles are needed about the other academies and Brad asked those present to think about future articles.

Tom Besaw said students from the Atlantic Law Academy and an attorney from the Rice Rose law firm would be on WNDB radio at 9 a.m. Jan. 17.

1. CTE Support and Sustainability Subcommittee: Adam Bunke, chairman, said that a marketing plan has been developed for Mainland’s Academy of Communications and Multimedia Technology and includes rebranding for the academy and connecting local businesses with students, such as job shadowing. Adam said the goal is to eventually prepare marketing plans for the other academies.

Chris LeBlanc said the academies could be a pilot program for Edmodo, the leading social learning network for K12 education. Bo Brewer said during the presentation with the school board, it was bought up that the board needs to embrace social media. It was discussed that a Cadre person needs to be in charge of the Edmodo committee, maybe a tech person. Brad said a social media task force also could be appointed.

Jayne Fifer pointed out the Volusia Manufacturers Assoc., has posted virtual plant tours on its web site and has a grant from the CBE to work with the Career Connection. Seven academies are working with manufacturing companies.

1. Instructional Design and Delivery Subcommittee: Meredi Jiloty, chairman, said the group met Jan. 6. They have identified 10 academies and these will be narrowed to four academies to work with in the classroom. She also said she’s identifying volunteers to teach Junior Achievement programs and also needs help with evaluating the 32 academies to determine what the students need to be successful.

Meredi said the goal is to have action items and a spreadsheet detailing the action items completed by February.

1. Program Development Subcommittee: Michelle Snider, chairman, said job data has been collected for the five main areas to determine if the academies are meeting the needs of the students. She said they are making plans to visit programs in the five areas for evaluations.

A discussion ensued on Team Volusia Economic Development Corp. and it was suggested that the new Team Volusia CEO, Helen Cauthen, be invited to the next Cadre meeting. Rick Fraser said he thought Team Volusia can be successful in helping existing businesses grow and attracting new businesses. He pointed out that the Career Connection in the public schools is really important for economic development. He said Team Volusia is an umbrella to work with Volusia County and the cities and also the private sector.

Paul Mitchell said with Team Volusia now working on economic development, Volusia County’s focus has shifted from recruitment to retention and expansion of existing businesses. Brad Giles asked what academies could provide future workers for new businesses. Michelle Snider said postsecondary students could serve as mentors for high school students to raise math and science grades.

Judge Briese said academy students need to be part of presentations to prospective industries and asked what can be done to get academies more visible when businesses are being recruited.

1. Kevin Snyder of the Efficiency and Effectiveness Subcommittee said he is measuring how the academies are successful and would like to visit other subcommittees. He gave forms to all the committees to record their goals and when they are attained. It will help us measure our successes, he said.

He will monitor the data and report to the other committees.

Liz Taylor discussed setting up a calendar for meetings and speaking engagements that can be accessed by the Subcommittee chairmen and also by Suzy Kridner of the Center for Business Excellence, who is providing support for the Cadre.

Tom also said that Race to the Top funds are being used for STEM academies and Volusia County should have a new STEM academy in two years.

He introduced Ronda Alexander and Rick Delano of Ford Motor Co. They are using Volusia County academies as models for other parts of the country.

The next Cadre meeting is May 11, 2011